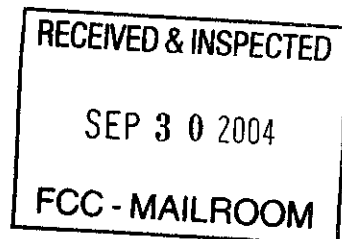




STATE OF DELAWARE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

861 SILVER LAKE BOULEVARD
CANNON BUILDING, SUITE 100
DOVER, DELAWARE 19904

September 27, 2004



TELEPHONE: (302) 739 - 4247
FAX: (302) 739 - 4849

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
455 - 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A306
Washington, DC 20554

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USAC
Irene Flannery
Universal Service Administration Company
2000 L Street NW - Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

RE: Certification of Rate Comparability Review for Non-Rural Carriers Serving In Rural Areas In Delaware Public Service Commission - Docket 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Flannery:

Pursuant to Section 54.316 of the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") rules, the Delaware Public Service Commission has reviewed the comparability of residential rates in rural areas of the State of Delaware served by non-rural incumbent local exchange carriers ("ILECs") to urban rates nationwide.

The Delaware Public Service Commission has determined that the rates charged by Verizon Delaware Inc, the State's sole ILEC, in the rural area of the State (which is limited to Sussex County) fall within the safe harbor provisions of the FCC's rules. The nationwide urban benchmark for rates in effect on July 1, 2004 is \$34.16. As demonstrated on Attachment 1 of this filing Verizon's rates applicable to Sussex County fall well below this benchmark.

Sincerely,

Constance A. Welde
Public Utilities Analyst
Delaware Public Service Commission

Attachment

cc: Shari Smith, Verizon Delaware Inc.

No. of Pages 1
11/1/04

Comparison of Delaware Rural, High Cost Area Rates

FCC "Safe Harbor" Benchmark

(All rates and changes as of July 1, 2004)

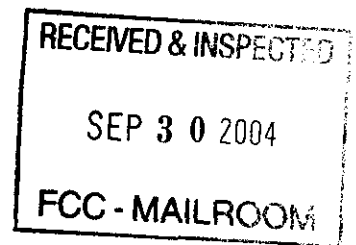
	FCC "Safe Harbor" Benchmark *
<hr/>	
<u>Representative Monthly Charge</u>	
Flat rate service which includes Touch Tone service	14.57
Subscriber Line Charge	5.91
Taxes, 911 and Other Charges	<u>4.28</u>
Average Monthly Charge for Residential Service	24.75
Weighted Standard Deviation	4.70
Average + 2* (Std Dev)	34.16

	Delaware Rural High Cost Rates (Sussex County)
Rate for a Line with access to the public switched network	
Flat rate service for residential customers	9.40
Touchtone	0.14
Unlimited local calling	<u>2.22</u>
Sub-Total	11.76 (A)
Federal subscriber Line charge	6.42
State subscriber Line charge	0.00
Federal Universal service fund charge	0.58
State Universal service fund charge	0.00
Local number portability charge	0.00
Telecommunications relay charge	<u>0.00</u>
Sub-Total	7.00 (B)
911 charges	0.60
Federal universal service charge credits (if any)	0.00
State universal service charge credits (if any)	<u>0.00</u>
SubTotal	0.60 (C)
Federal Excise Tax (3% of Sub-Total A and B)	0.56 (D)
TOTAL (A+B+C+D)	19.92



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2000 L Street NW - Suite 200
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RE: Docket 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Flannery:

There are no telecommunications carriers in Delaware that currently receive High Cost Loop Support, Local Switching Support or High Cost Model Support. Since there is no high cost support available to carriers in Delaware there is nothing to certify at this time.

In the future, should the high cost support universal support mechanism be modified and Delaware carriers become eligible to receive this support, the Delaware Public Service Commission will provide the pertinent certification.

Sincerely,

Constance A. Welde
Public Utilities Analyst
Delaware Public Service Commission

cc: Shari Smith, Verizon Delaware Inc.